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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

----- X
 THE BANK OF NEW YORK TRUST COMPANY,
 N.A., AS TRUSTEE,

Interpleader Plaintiff,

-against-

FRANKLIN ADVISERS, INC., FRANKLIN
 CLO II, LTD., FRANKLIN CLO II, CORP., CDO
 PLUS MASTER FUND, LTD., CHASE MANHATTAN
 BANK LONDON NOMINEE FOR SEIRA 13 as a
 nominee, DEUTSCHE BANK SECURITIES INC. as a
 nominee, GENSEC IRELAND LIMITED as a nominee,
 HARE & CO. as a nominee, MAC & CO. as a nominee,
 MASSACHUSETTS MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE CO.
 as a nominee, MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER &
 SMITH INC. as a nominee, SUN LIFE ASSURANCE
 CO. OF CANADA as a nominee, TEMPLETON
 GLOBAL ADVISORS, LTD. as a nominee, AND

“JOHN DOE #1” through “JOHN DOE #12,” the
 last twelve names being fictitious and unknown to
 plaintiff, the persons or parties intended being the
 beneficial owners of the Preferred Shares, the
 Series I Combination Security, and the Class C-2 Notes
 under the Indenture as more fully described in the
 Complaint,

Interpleader Defendants.

Case No. 07-CV-1746 (VM)

**RULE 7.1 DISCLOSURE
 STATEMENT OF
 FRANKLIN ADVISERS, INC.**

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 Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 7.1, and to enable District Judges and
 Magistrate Judges of the Court to evaluate possible disqualification or recusal, please be advised

that Franklin Advisers, Inc. is a private non-governmental entity and is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Franklin Resources, Inc., a publicly held corporation.

Dated: New York, New York
April 20, 2007

SCHINDLER COHEN & HOCHMAN LLP

By: s/ Jonathan L. Hochman
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*Attorneys for Defendant-in-Interpleader
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